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Economic and Social Council

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Substantive session of 2007
Geneva, 2-27 July 2007
Agenda items 2 (a) and 2 (b)

Thematic discussion: strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies

Annual ministerial review: strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development

Draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment submitted by the President of the Council on the basis of informal consultations

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating in the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2007 of the Economic and Social Council, held at Geneva from 2 to 5 July 2007,

Having considered the theme of the annual ministerial review, "Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development", the report of the Secretary-General on the subject[1] and the contributions made leading up to and during the high-level segment,

Having also considered the theme "Strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies", the report of the Secretary-General on the subject[2] and the contributions made during the high-level segment,

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the development goals and objectives contained therein, and recognizing the vital role played by these conferences and summits in shaping a broad development vision and in identifying

[1] E/2007/71.
[2] E/2007/68.

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commonly agreed objectives, which have contributed to improving human life in different parts of the world,

Reaffirming that development is a central goal in and of itself and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities,

Recognizing that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to eradicate poverty and hunger,

Reiterating that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and that it is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries,

Recognizing that while globally extreme poverty is declining at a notable rate, progress has been uneven, and that at the same time the number of people living in extreme poverty continues to increase in some countries, particularly in the least developed countries and in sub-Saharan Africa,

Remaining concerned that many countries in Africa are currently not on track to achieve any of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration by 2015[3] and in this regard emphasizing that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfil the commitments to address the special needs of Africa,

Recognizing that empowerment of the poor is essential for the effective eradication of poverty and hunger,

Recognizing also that rural areas of developing countries continue to be home to the vast majority of the world's poor people, whose livelihoods depend to a large extent on agriculture,

Reaffirming the commitments to the global partnership for development as set out in the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus[4] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[5]

Have adopted the following declaration:

1. We welcome the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, the holding of the first annual ministerial review, including the voluntary national presentations made by Bangladesh, Barbados, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Ethiopia and Ghana, and the launch of the Development Cooperation Forum.

2. We invite all countries to consider making voluntary national presentations at future annual ministerial reviews.

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[3] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[4] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

3. We also welcome the holding of the Civil Society Development Forum at Geneva from 28 to 30 June 2007.

4. We reiterate our resolve to strengthen our efforts to eradicate the scourges of poverty and hunger and to make that goal the central priority of national development strategies and international development cooperation.

5. We recognize that sustained economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries. We commit ourselves to promoting sustained economic growth in developing countries and recognize that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an international enabling environment.

6. We reiterate that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, particularly as they affect children, is crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and that rural and agricultural development should be an integral part of national and international development policies. In this regard, we call for increased productive investment in rural and agricultural development to achieve food security and for enhanced support for agricultural development and trade capacity-building in the agricultural sector in developing countries.

7. We emphasize that, inter alia, increasing access, through national action and international support, to safe drinking water, basic sanitation, energy, universal education, health care and social protection will reduce both inequality and poverty.

8. We reiterate the importance of taking measures at all levels to strengthen the development of non-agricultural sectors, in particular medium-sized, small and microenterprises.

9. We also reiterate our strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into reduction of poverty and in this regard resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

10. We call for promotion and facilitation of, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including new and advanced environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, to developing countries.

11. We call on all countries to adopt strategies for reducing urban poverty, call on the United Nations system and other relevant organizations to support developing countries in this regard and invite the international financial institutions to support those efforts, as appropriate.

12. We reaffirm our commitment to prioritize actions and allocate resources to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in all countries and agree to undertake measures to provide malnourished people with increased access to food.

13. We reiterate that all countries should promote gender equality and empowerment of women and, as called for, inter alia, in the Beijing Declaration and

Platform for Action[6] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[7] identify and accelerate actions towards that end.

14. We recognize that microfinance, including microcredit, can make an important contribution to poverty eradication and the empowerment of the poor, including through programmes that could facilitate productive self-employment, promote gender equality and reduce the social and economic vulnerability of the poor. We encourage all countries to facilitate the expansion of microfinance, including microcredit, in order to service the large unmet demand among poor people for financial services.

15. We resolve to intensify our efforts towards the goal of universal access to HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010, enhanced access to affordable medicines, reduction of the incidence of tuberculosis by half by 2015 and reduction of the large number of deaths from malaria and other infectious diseases, including through increased resources; and in this regard we welcome the commitment by the Group of Eight to increase funding to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, including the strengthening of health systems, to 60 billion dollars in the coming years. We also resolve to continue efforts to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health and strengthen health-care systems to help us meet the needs of our populations in all spheres of health, including sexual and reproductive health.

16. We emphasize the critical role of both formal and informal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration, in particular basic education and training for eradicating illiteracy, and strive for expanded secondary and higher education as well as vocational and technical training, especially for girls and women, the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities and the empowerment of those living in poverty.

17. We reaffirm out commitment to achieve the goal of sustainable development including through the implementation of Agenda 21[8] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. To that end, we commit ourselves to undertaking concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhancing international cooperation, taking into account the Rio principles.[9] These efforts will also promote the integration of the three components of sustainable development — economic development, social development and environmental protection — as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars. Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.

18. We recognize the negative impact of environmental degradation and climate change on sustainable development in all countries, especially developing countries,

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[6] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[7] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[9] Ibid., annex I.

in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries.

19. We recall the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[10] including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions.

20. We reaffirm that responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner, with a view to avoiding adverse impact on the latter, taking into full account the legitimate priority needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty.

21. We look forward to measures to address climate change within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007. We also look forward to the Secretary-General's high-level event, which is to take place in New York on 24 September 2007.

22. We reiterate the need to fully implement the global partnership for development and to enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit in order to operationalize and implement, at all levels, the commitments in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit, in the economic, social and related fields and stress that all countries should promote policies coherent and consistent with those commitments, including those systemic in nature.

23. We reaffirm our commitment to sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, and to mobilizing domestic resources, attracting international flows, promoting international trade as an engine for development, increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief and enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

24. We also reaffirm that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development. We also recognize that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty.

25. We reiterate that in our common pursuit of growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, a critical challenge is to ensure the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private, sustaining adequate levels of productive investment and increasing human capacity. A crucial task is to enhance the efficacy, coherence and consistency of macroeconomic

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

policies. An enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance. Efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community.

26. We acknowledge efforts by developed countries to increase resources for development, including commitments by some developed countries to increase official development assistance. We note with concern, however, the overall decline in official development assistance in 2006 and call for the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2015 and to reach at least 0.5 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2010, as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent for the least developed countries, and urge those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments.

27. We welcome the efforts by some developed countries, which are on target to meet the commitments made in terms of increased official development assistance.

28. We also welcome recent efforts and initiatives to enhance the quality of aid and to increase its impact, including the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and resolve to take concrete, effective and timely action in implementing all agreed commitments on aid effectiveness, with clear monitoring and deadlines, including through further aligning assistance with countries' strategies, building institutional capacities, reducing transaction costs and eliminating bureaucratic procedures, making progress on untying aid, enhancing the absorptive capacity and financial management of recipient countries and strengthening the focus on development results.

29. We resolve to ensure that existing commitments of additional external resources for sub-Saharan Africa are fully implemented in order to promote achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in that region.

30. We call for the full, timely and effective achievement of the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action,[11] the Almaty Programme of Action,[12] the Barbados Programme of Action[13] and the Mauritius Strategy[14] to address the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

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[11] A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

[12] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

[13] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[14] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

31. We emphasize the need to support the smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, in accordance with the smooth transition strategy[15] for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries.

32. We reaffirm the commitments made in the Doha Ministerial Declaration,[16] the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration[17] and the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 1 August 2004[18] to meaningfully integrate the developing and the least developed countries into the multilateral trading system and call for the successful and timely completion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, with the full realization of the development dimensions of the Doha Work Programme.[16]

33. We call for the early conclusion and successful development-oriented outcome of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, adhering fully to the agreed mandate in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, within the framework adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 1 August 2004, and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.

34. We call upon all countries to promote good governance, which is essential for sustainable development, and reaffirm that sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation and that freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality, market-oriented policies and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies, are also essential and mutually reinforcing.

35. We resolve to pursue good governance and sound macroeconomic policies at all levels and to support developing countries in their efforts to put in place the policies and investments to drive sustained economic growth, promote small and medium-sized enterprises and employment generation and stimulate the private sector.

36. We reaffirm that good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving sustainable development, that in order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment it is important to promote global economic governance through addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries and that, to that end, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing the market access of developing countries.

37. We also reaffirm the commitment to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, stress, to that end, the importance of continuing efforts to reform the international financial architecture, noting that enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries and countries with

[15] General Assembly resolution 59/209.

[16] A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[17] World Trade Organization document WT/MIN(05)/BEC.

[18] See World Trade Organization document WT/L/579.

economies in transition in the Bretton Woods institutions remains a continuous concern, and call in this regard for further and effective progress.

38. We call for measures at all levels to promote pro-poor growth in a sustained manner and underline in this regard the need for equitable microeconomic policies.

39. We recognize that poverty and inequality are a concern for all countries regardless of their level of development. We also recognize that middle-income countries still face significant areas of poverty and that efforts to address those challenges should be supported.

40. We acknowledge the vital role the private sector can play in promoting economic growth and eradicating poverty and hunger by generating new investments, employment and financing for development.

41. We recognize the role that public-private partnerships can play in our efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, the need to ensure that their activities conform fully with the principle of national ownership of development strategies and the need for effective accountability and transparency in their implementation.

42. We acknowledge the critical role of the public sector in promoting sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

43. We renew our commitment to continuing to discuss innovative mechanisms for financing for development. We acknowledge the progress made in this area and invite countries to consider contributing in this regard.

44. We recognize, in this regard, the value of developing innovative sources of financing from various sources on public, private, domestic and external bases in order to increase and supplement traditional sources of financing.

45. We request the Economic and Social Council to consider reviewing its existing mechanisms and, where needed, to take appropriate action to ensure effective review and implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

46. We look forward to our continuing engagement, within the renewed and strengthened Economic and Social Council, to advancing the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

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Agenda item 4
The role of the United Nations system in providing full and productive employment and decent work for all

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Hilario G. Davide, Jr. (Philippines), on the basis of informal consultations

The role of the United Nations system in providing full and productive employment and decent work for all

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development,[1] the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly[2] and the 2005 World Summit,[3]

Recalling also the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2006,[4]

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/265 of 30 June 2006 and 61/16 of 20 November 2006,

Recalling its decision 2006/274 of 15 December 2006, with regard to the theme of the 2007 coordination segment of its substantive session of 2007, "The role of the United Nations system in promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all",

Recalling also that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, is recognized as an important instrument to achieve the objective of full and productive employment and decent work for all,

Bearing in mind the coordinating role of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, including in respect of the Toolkit for

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.
[3] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.
[4] See A/61/3, chap. III.

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Mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work as developed by the International Labour Organization,

Recognizing that full and productive employment and decent work for all is one of the key elements for poverty reduction strategies that facilitate the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and that it requires a multidimensional focus that incorporates Governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, representatives of employers and workers, international organizations and, in particular, the agencies of the United Nations system and the international financial institutions,

1. *Requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to continue their efforts to mainstream the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all in their policies, programmes and activities with a view to sustained and well-coordinated follow-up of the 2006 ministerial declaration;[4]

2. *Requests* the functional and regional commissions of the United Nations to continue to address the challenge of full and productive employment and decent work for all in the various dimensions of the international development agenda and to assess the impact of policies in their specific areas of competence on the achievement of employment and decent work for all;

3. *Encourages* all relevant agencies of the United Nations system to collaborate in using, adapting and evaluating the application of the Toolkit for Mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work, as developed by the International Labour Organization and endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

4. *Invites* the International Labour Organization to assist the agencies of the United Nations system and to serve as a resource for improving their understanding and application of the toolkit;

5. *Invites* the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and the international financial institutions to develop, with the assistance of the International Labour Organization, mechanisms to share their pertinent expertise on the employment and decent work agenda and to assess the impact of relevant policies and programmes on employment and decent work for all, with special attention to women and youth;

6. *Calls on* the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to assess and adopt, as appropriate within their respective mandates, in their action plans the three-phased approach to promote the goals of full employment and decent work for all presented in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "The role of the United Nations system in promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all";[5]

7. *Invites* the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and the international financial institutions to promote, in close cooperation with the International Labour Organization, a greater awareness and understanding of, with a view to better implementing, the decent work agenda, including its four objectives;

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[5] E/2007/49.

8. *Requests* the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, as appropriate within their respective mandates, to coordinate their employment and decent work-related activities and programmes in order to promote coherent and mutually supporting multidisciplinary and multisectoral approaches, including approaches mainstreaming gender;

9. *Also requests* the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, including non-resident agencies, and invites the international financial institutions, as appropriate within their existing mandates, to promote synergies and strategic collaboration, involving relevant stakeholders, including Governments and representatives of employers and workers, for the formulation and delivery of specific outcomes related to full and productive employment and decent work goals at the country level in support of national strategies and programmes, including the decent work country programmes driven by the International Labour Organization;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as the Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to encourage the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to review the integration and implementation of the policies and plans to achieve the goals of productive employment and decent work for all, including women and youth, and in this context requests that they be brought to the attention of Member States and the relevant governing bodies of United Nations organizations.

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Economic and Social Council

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Geneva, 2-27 July 2007
Agenda item 5
Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Hjálmar W. Hannesson (Iceland), on the basis of informal consultations

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Welcoming the decision to consider the theme "Strengthening of the coordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance through enhancing the effectiveness of needs-based humanitarian assistance" at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2007,

Welcoming also its decision to hold panels on the use of military assets in natural disaster relief and on needs-based humanitarian financing, including the Central Emergency Response Fund,

Expressing grave concern about the increase in the number of people affected and the growing economic losses caused by humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters,

Recognizing the clear relationship between emergency, rehabilitation and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development and that emergency measures should be seen as a step towards long-term development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;[1]

[1] A/62/87-E/2007/70.

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2. *Takes note also* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the Central Emergency Response Fund[2] and on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster;[3]

3. *Takes note further* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, entitled "Towards a United Nations humanitarian assistance programme for disaster response and reduction: lessons learned from the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster",[4] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon;[5]

4. *Encourages* national Governments to create an enabling environment for capacity-building of local authorities and local and national non-governmental and community-based organizations, and also encourages the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and organizations to support national authorities in their capacity-building programmes designed to enhance the participation and contribution of local authorities and local and national non-governmental and community-based organizations, including through technical cooperation and long-term partnerships based on the recognition of their important role in providing humanitarian assistance;

5. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should make efforts to enhance existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries;

6. *Takes note* of the efforts by the United Nations system to further enhance the coordination of its emergency humanitarian assistance;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of involving, as appropriate, relevant entities, including non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, that provide humanitarian assistance in national and local coordination efforts, and invites those entities to participate in the improvement of humanitarian assistance, as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the relevant United Nations organizations to continue to engage systematically with relevant authorities and organizations at the regional and national levels to prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies, and invites Member States to support, as appropriate, those efforts;

9. *Urges* Member States to prepare and update disaster preparedness plans at all levels and to conduct regular disaster preparedness exercises in accordance with priority 5 of the Hyogo Framework for Action,[6] as appropriate, and taking into account their own circumstances and capacities, and encourages the international

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[2] A/62/72-E/2007/73.

[3] A/62/83-E/2007/67.

[4] A/61/699-E/2007/8.

[5] A/61/699/Add.1-E/2007/8/Add.1.

[6] Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities for Disasters, adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction; see A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

community and relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, to support, upon request, national efforts in this regard;

10. *Takes note* of the establishment of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, a partnership of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction system to support the Hyogo Framework for Action;

11. *Invites* Member States to work with relevant United Nations organizations to strengthen humanitarian standby capacities, in particular in the area of disaster relief, including, where appropriate, by participating in humanitarian response networks, contributing to and maintaining the standby directories of the Central Register of Disaster Management Capacities and facilitating standby arrangements with the private sector;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and report, in consultation with Member States, on the use of military assets for disaster relief with the aim of improving the predictability and use of these assets, based on humanitarian principles;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide an update on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee review of its 1999 policy statement on the integration of a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance and to report on steps taken in this regard;

14. *Stresses* the importance of a coordinated process of assessing lessons learned in the international response to a given humanitarian emergency;

15. *Requests* relevant United Nations organizations, in consultation with Member States, to coordinate and strengthen needs assessments and improve data on beneficiaries by agreeing on common definitions, indicators, information management mechanisms and consistent methodologies of data collection;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to continue to identify and use, as appropriate and available, local resources and expertise from within the affected country and/or its neighbours in response to humanitarian needs;

17. *Welcomes* the continued efforts to strengthen the humanitarian response capacity and the progress made in strengthening support to resident/humanitarian coordinators, including by improving their identification, selection and training, to provide a timely, predictable and appropriate response to humanitarian needs and to strengthen United Nations coordination activities at the field level, and requests the Secretary-General to continue efforts in this regard, in consultation with Member States;

18. *Encourages* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide timely and accurate information on contributions and the use of humanitarian funds through the financial tracking service, and requests the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to continue to improve the analysis and reporting of comprehensive financial information through the financial tracking service;

19. *Invites* Member States to make contributions to humanitarian funding mechanisms, including consolidated and flash appeals, the Central Emergency

Response Fund and other funds, recognizing the importance of providing humanitarian assistance in a manner that is flexible, predictable and, where possible, multi-year and additional, taking note of chronically underfunded emergencies;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

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Agenda item 13 (h)
Economic and environmental questions: international cooperation in tax matters

Programme budget implications of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its second session

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

I. Introduction

1. The timing of the adoption of the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its second session,[1] which was finalized by the Committee on 3 November 2006, shortly before the end of the session, did not provide the Secretary-General with the requisite 48-hour minimum period to prepare and present a related statement of programme budget implications, in accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. Since that time, a thorough review of the implications of the recommendations made by the Committee in its draft resolution[2] has been carried out in order that a written statement containing a detailed analysis of the programme budget implications may be submitted to the Council at its substantive session of 2007. The results of that review are set out below.

II. Relevant requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 11 and 12 of the draft resolution recommended by the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters,[2] the Economic and Social Council would, inter alia:

(a) Request the necessary actions to provide in the United Nations regular programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 the additional resources needed for

[1] *Office Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 45* (E/2006/45).
[2] Ibid., annex.

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face-to-face meetings of the subcommittees and the working group, with special reference to ensuring the full and effective participation of members of those subcommittees from developing countries and countries with economies in transition and with priority given to subcommittees on permanent establishment and improper use of treaties;

(b) Request the necessary actions to provide in the United Nations regular programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 the additional resources needed for capacity-building workshops in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

3. Since operative paragraphs 11 and 12 of the draft resolution deal with administrative and budgetary matters, the attention of the Economic and Social Council is drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B and subsequent resolutions in which the Assembly reaffirmed that administrative and budgetary matters should be dealt with by the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Under the circumstances, the consideration and adoption by the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters of the text of operative paragraphs 11 and 12 of the draft resolution may be considered to be in contravention of the resolutions of the Assembly reaffirming that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate main committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters.

III. Relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

4. The activities referred to above relate to subprogramme 10, Financing for development, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009.[3] They also fall under subprogramme 10, International cooperation for development, of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.[4]

IV. Activities by which the proposed requests would be carried out

5. In its resolution 2006/48, the Economic and Social Council recognized that the Committee of Experts agreed to create, as necessary, ad hoc subcommittees composed of experts and observers who would work throughout the year according to the Committee's rules of procedure to prepare and determine the supporting documentation for the agenda items, including requests for papers by independent experts, for consideration at its regular session. As a result of decisions taken at the Committee's first and second sessions, there are currently four subcommittees on substantive matters, namely: improper use of treaties (formerly "treaty abuses");

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/61/6/Rev.1).
[4] A/62/6 (Sect. 9).

definition of permanent establishment; exchange of information; and dispute resolution. In addition, there are two working groups: on the Manual for the Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries; and on treatment of Islamic financial instruments.

6. While the subcommittees and working groups have used electronic communication as the main method of work, the intensified pace of drafting of highly technical documents necessitates that subcommittees and working groups undertake some face-to-face meetings, as requested in paragraph 11 of the draft resolution. Should the Council adopt the draft resolution, it is estimated that the subcommittees and working groups would each meet once a year for two working days. It is noted that approximately half of the members of the subcommittees and working groups are from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

7. Also in its resolution 2006/48, the Council invited the Committee to continue to organize training workshops for developing countries and countries with economies in transition as part of the work required to carry out its mandate, which includes making recommendations on capacity-building and providing technical assistance. That request is reiterated in paragraph 12 of the draft resolution of the Committee. Should the Council adopt the draft resolution, it is estimated that at least five regional training workshops would be conducted during the biennium.

V. Modifications required in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

8. In order to take into account the provisions of the draft resolution, the programmed outputs of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009[4] would be modified and would be incorporated into the programme of work of section 9, subject to the related approval by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. The required modifications to the outputs would be as follows:

Paragraph 9.83

(iv) Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: the words "intersessional meetings of its subcommittees and working groups (20)" would be replaced with the words "intersessional meetings of its subcommittees (32) and working groups (16)";

b. Parliamentary documentation: the words "issues papers by the secretariat on agenda items to be determined by the Committee for its fourth and fifth sessions (20)" would be replaced with the words "background documents drafted by subcommittees, working groups and the task force on agenda items to be determined by the Committee for its fourth and fifth sessions (20)".

9. Should the Economic and Social Council adopt the draft resolution, additional resources estimated at $817,000 would be required under subprogramme 10,

Financing for development, of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, including:

(a) $332,000 for travel and per diem costs for the experts and observers of the four subcommittees and two working groups to an annual meeting for two working days in each year of the biennium. On average, each subcommittee is made up of five experts and three observers and each working group is made up of five experts and two observers for a total of 46 participants with an average cost of $3,600 per participant per year;

(b) $35,000 to cover travel and per diem costs of one staff member to provide substantive servicing to 10 of the 12 meetings of the subcommittees and working groups that would be held during the biennium away from Headquarters in New York;

(c) $450,000 to conduct at least five regional training workshops during the biennium 2008-2009 and to cover the cost of travel and per diem of workshop participants, expert trainers and staff members, including other workshop-related costs. These activities fall under the output description in paragraph 9.83 (c) (ii) of section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 and further modifications to the programme narrative are not required.

VI. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2008-2009

10. In the opinion of the Secretary-General, capacity-building activities are more appropriately supported from extrabudgetary resources. Thus, it is projected that the additional cost of $450,000 for the five regional training workshops would be funded from voluntary contributions to the trust fund established following the adoption of resolution 2006/48 by the Economic and Social Council. The conduct of the workshops will therefore be subject to the availability of voluntary contributions.

11. Provision of $330,200 (before recosting) has been made under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 exclusively for the travel and per diem costs of the 25 members of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to attend its two annual regular sessions in Geneva, which consist of five working days each.

12. As regards the additional amount of $332,000 for the travel and per diem costs for the experts and observers of the four subcommittees and two working groups and the amount of $35,000 to cover the travel and per diem costs of one staff member to service meetings of subcommittees and working groups, the potential for absorption of the total additional requirements of $367,000 from within the resources of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 has been considered. It has been determined that those requirements could not be absorbed and that additional resources in the amount of $367,000 would be required over and above the resources available under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

VII. Contingency fund

13. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures were proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

VIII. Conclusion

14. **Should the Economic and Social Council adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters in its report on its second session, additional resources in the amount of $367,000 would be required under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require additional appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009, which is subject to the approval by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session in the context of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates of decisions taken by the Council.**

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Agenda item 14 (e)
Social and human rights questions: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Benin, Luxembourg, Montenegro* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:* draft decision

Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957, in which the Assembly requested the Council to establish the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as subsequent Assembly resolutions, in which the membership of the Executive Committee was increased:

(a) Takes note of the requests to enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees contained in the letter dated 29 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[1] the letter dated 8 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[2] the letter dated 28 June 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[3] and the note verbale dated 10 May 2007 from the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General;[4]

(b) Recommends that the General Assembly, at its sixty-second session, decide on the question of enlarging the membership of the Executive Committee from seventy-two to seventy-six States.

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] E/2006/92.

[2] E/2007/11.

[3] E/2007/85.

[4] E/2007/86.

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Agenda item 7 (d)
Coordination, programme and other questions: long-term programme of support for Haiti

Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chile,* Haiti, Spain* and Trinidad and Tobago:* draft resolution

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2004/52 of 23 July 2004, 2005/46 of 27 July 2005 and 2006/10 of 26 July 2006 and its decision 2004/332 of 11 November 2004,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti and of its recommendations contained therein;[1]

2. *Commends* the Government and people of Haiti on the political and economic evolution of the situation, and welcomes the support provided by the international community to this process;

3. *Notes* the progress made by the Government of Haiti in terms of gender equality, and also notes the importance of gender equality as a necessary dimension of any strategy for development;

4. *Also notes* that the preparation of a national poverty reduction strategy is advancing, and looks forward to continued support from donors, the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions in connection with the future implementation of this strategy;

5. *Recognizes* the need for effective coordination between donors and the Haitian Government, including a standing consultation mechanism with the main non-governmental organizations active in Haiti;

6. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group until the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 2008, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on Haiti's long-term development

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.
[1] E/2007/78.

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strategy to promote socio-economic recovery and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities and building upon the Interim Cooperation Framework and the forthcoming poverty reduction strategy, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

7. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group, and requests him to continue to support the activities of the Group adequately from within existing resources, where possible;

8. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Advisory Group, in accomplishing its mandate, to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative in Haiti, the head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Development Group, relevant United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, the Bretton Woods institutions, regional organizations and institutions, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community, the Inter-American Development Bank and other major stakeholders;

9. *Also requests* the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2008;

10. *Decides* that the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group will be reviewed at its substantive session of 2008, with a view to considering whether to continue its mandate, based on the Council's consideration of the report of the Advisory Group and the situation then prevailing in Haiti, with due account being taken of the activities of the entities of the United Nations system active in peacebuilding in Haiti.

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Agenda item 9
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia, Congo, Cuba, Dominica, Fiji, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): draft resolution

Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[2]

Having heard the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, the resolutions of the Special Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/37 of 27 July 2006,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries

[1] A/62/65.
[2] E/2007/47.

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and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Welcoming the current participation, in their capacity as observers, of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of the regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited they face special challenges in planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that they will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all the major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 61/231 of 22 December 2006, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council,[2] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. *Reaffirms also* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so that they may take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit those proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. *Recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Welcomes* the preparation by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an informational leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests that it be disseminated as widely as possible;

13. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison between the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

14. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

15. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee, on specific Territories, so that they may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

16. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the substantive session of 2007 of the Economic and Social Council;

18. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of its resolution 574 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998,[3] in which the Commission called for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to

[3] See *Economic and Social Council Official Records, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), chap. III, sect. G.

review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories had originally participated in their capacity as observers, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

19. *Requests* the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 2008;

21. *Decides* to keep the above questions under continuous review.

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Agenda item 12
Non-governmental organizations

Canada: draft decision

Application of the non-governmental organization Coalition gaie et lesbienne du Québec

The Economic and Social Council, having considered the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2007 regular session and draft decision III contained therein,[1] decides to grant consultative status to the Coalition gaie et lesbienne du Québec.

[1] See E/2007/32 (Part I), chap. I.

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Agenda item 12
Non-governmental organizations

Portugal:* draft decision

Application of the non-governmental organization Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights

The Economic and Social Council, having considered the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 2007 session and draft decision IV contained therein,[1] decides to grant consultative status to the Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights.

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

[1] See E/2007/32 (Part II), chap. I, sect. A.

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Agenda item 13 (i)
Economic and environmental questions:
United Nations Forum on Forests

Programme budget implications of the recommendations contained in the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its seventh session

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests, in its report on its seventh session,[1] in describing the action it had taken on the adoption of its resolution 7/1, entitled "Multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2007-2015",[2] noted that the Secretary had read out a statement prepared by the Programme Planning and Budget Division of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts of the Secretariat on the draft resolution of the Forum for adoption by the Council.[3] In its statement, the Division noted that delays in finalizing consultations on the draft resolution had not provided the Secretariat with the requisite 48-hour minimum period required to prepare and present the statement of the financial implications of the draft resolution. The statement concluded with a commitment to carry out a thorough review of the implications of the draft resolution and to submit a written statement containing a detailed analysis of its programme budget implications to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2007. The results of the review are set out below.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council 2007, Supplement No. 22* (E/2007/42 and Corr.1).
[2] Ibid., chap. I, sect. C.
[3] Ibid., chap. I, sect. A.

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II. Relevant requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 of the draft resolution recommended by the United Nations Forum on Forests for adoption by the Council,[3] the Council would, inter alia:

(a) Note that the United Nations Forum on Forests, at its seventh session, adopted a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(b) Recommend to the General Assembly that it adopt the draft resolution, in which it would decide, inter alia, to adopt the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(c) Decide that the Forum should, within existing resources, convene before its eighth session, an open-ended ad hoc expert group to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework and invite the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to assist in the development of those proposals.

3. During its seventh session the Forum, by its resolution 7/1, also adopted its multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015, which was also brought to the attention of the Council in the report.[2]

III. Relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009

4. The activities referred to in the draft resolution would fall under subprogramme 9, Sustainable forest management, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009, as revised by the General Assembly.[4] However, since they also fall under subprogramme 9, Sustainable forest management, of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009,[5] modifications to the programme of work and resource requirements, resulting from the requests contained in the draft resolution, will be considered by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session in the context of its consideration of section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

IV. Activities by which the proposed requests would be carried out

5. Should the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the multi-year programme of work of the Forum be approved by the General Assembly, the secretariat of the Forum would support its implementation through, inter alia:

(a) Preparing, in coordination with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, analytical consolidated reports that assess overall progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests;

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[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/61/6/Rev.1).

[5] A/62/6 (Sect. 9).

(b) Liaising, coordinating and following up on the establishment and management of the global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework and managing the substantive areas of the means of implementation;

(c) Managing the preparation of substantive documentation and the reporting of the meetings related to the Forum and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument;

(d) Conceptualizing, planning and managing expert meetings and preparatory working meetings, panels and seminars.

6. In this connection, the secretariat would: (a) convene an expert group meeting on regional inputs to the global dialogue; (b) organize interactive panels and special events during Forum sessions; (c) undertake advisory missions for planning coordinated and harmonized inputs in the work of the Forum; (d) prepare subregional/regional, national or sectoral analyses that provide a basis for national Governments and regional organizations in their forest policy development; (e) monitor forest policy developments in the regions and identify recurrent and emerging issues of concern to the Forum; (f) draft policy recommendations; and (g) design and monitor technical cooperation projects.

7. In preparation for an open-ended ad hoc expert group meeting to develop proposals for the elaboration of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework, which is to be held in 2008, a review of current financial mechanisms and an assessment of the viability for adoption as a global mechanism would be undertaken.

8. The adoption and implementation of the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for 2007-2015 would also give rise to a number of new activities. For the Forum's eighth session in 2009, under the overall themes of "Forests in a changing environment" and "Means of implementation for sustainable forest management", the secretariat of the Forum would prepare thematic documents and would convene expert group meetings on: (a) forests and climate change, (b) reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, and (c) forests and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas.

9. In adopting the multi-year programme of work, the Forum laid out the monitoring, assessment and reporting requirements on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. In that connection, the secretariat of the Forum would undertake: (a) the assessment and synthesis of national reports and the proposal of recommendations to the Forum on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument; (b) the creation and maintenance of databases of country information and national reports submitted to the Forum; and (c) the drafting of specified inputs for technical papers and analytical studies on selected global, regional, national or sectoral aspects of sustainable forest management.

V. Modifications required in the programme of work and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

10. In order to take into account the provisions of the draft resolution, the programme narrative and outputs of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the

proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009[5] would be modified and would be incorporated into the programme of work of section 9, subject to the approval by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. The required modifications to the outputs would be as follows:

Table 9.25

Expected accomplishment (a): the words "adoption and" would be deleted and the words "on all types of forests" would be added after the words "non-legally binding instrument";

Indicator of achievement (a): the words "and collaborative actions on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and" would be inserted between the words "decisions" and "on improvement";

Expected accomplishment (b): the words "on progress" would be inserted between the words "actions" and "towards";

Expected accomplishment (c): the words "on sustainable forest management" would be inserted between the words "management" and "among".

Paragraph 9.78

(a) (i) a. Substantive servicing of meetings: the words "intersessional meetings (80)" would be replaced with the words "intersessional meetings (56)";

(a) (i) b. Parliamentary documentation: the following text, "report on regional input (1); report on forests and climate change (1); report on reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including in low forest cover countries (1); report on forests and biodiversity conservation (1); report on emerging issues (1); Chairman's summary of the open-ended ad hoc expert group on a global financial mechanism (1); note on progress towards sustainable forest management (1); note on the progress in implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (1); note on the progress towards achieving the four global objectives on forests (1); note on the Trust Fund in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests (1); note on the activities of the Economic and Social Council relevant to the work of the Forum (1); and provisional agenda and note on the ad hoc expert group on a global financial mechanism (2), would be added;

(a) (iii) Ad hoc expert groups: the words "seven expert group meetings on:" would be deleted and the words with "10 expert group meetings on:" would be inserted; the words "reclustering and subject indexing of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/ Intergovernmental Forum on Forests Proposal for Action" and "annexes of a non-legally binding instrument for the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management" would be deleted; the number of meetings for the "multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable forest management: civil society perspectives in

conjunction with the intersessional and the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests" would be changed from (2) to (1), and the words "open-ended meeting on a global financial mechanism", "forests and climate change", "forests and biodiversity conservation", "reversing the loss of forest cover", "funding mechanisms" and "regional inputs" would be added;

(b) (iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits: the words "information kit on the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (1); booklet on review of the current financial mechanisms (1)" would be added;

(b) (v) Special events: the words "interactive panels with stakeholders, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and regional organizations (3)" would be added;

(b) (vi) Technical material: the words "guidelines and reporting format on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument (6); guidelines for providing regional inputs (3); guidelines for the review of existing current financial mechanisms (3); guidelines for providing information on events and initiatives relevant to the preparations for the International Year of Forests (3)" would be added;

(b) (viii) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings: the words "Collaborative Partnership on Forests initiative to review the current international financing mechanisms (2)" would be added;

(c) (i) Advisory services: the words "provision of expert advice to Member States and regional organizations on the non-legally binding instrument (support to country-led initiatives) (3)" would be added.

VI. Estimated resource requirements

A. Conference-servicing requirements

11. The conference-servicing requirements, at full cost, for the open-ended ad hoc working group on the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework to be convened in 2008 in New York are estimated at $331,900. It is also estimated that there would be one week of meetings in December 2008, with two meetings per day, for a total of 10 meetings. Interpretation would be provided in all six official languages and documentation to be processed in the six official languages is estimated at 68 pages (pre-session) and 40 pages (post-session). As regards the venue of the meeting, in accordance with the Headquarters principle embodied in General Assembly resolution 40/243, the meetings of the United Nations Forum on Forests should be held in New York. Furthermore, the dates of these meetings are subject to the availability of conference-servicing facilities and resources and would be determined in consultation with the Secretariat.

B. Non-conference-servicing requirements: section 9, Economic and social affairs

12. Should the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the multi-year programme of work of the Forum be approved by the General Assembly, the new and expanded functions resulting from such adoption would require the strengthening of the secretariat of the Forum. These functions include the facilitation, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the non-legally binding instrument and the monitoring of and follow-up to the achievement of the global objectives on forests and other internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It is estimated, on the full cost basis, that five new posts (1 D-1, 1 P-4, 2 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) and non-post resources, amounting to $1,705,200, would be required, as follows:

1. Post requirements ($809,900)

(a) Principal Forest Affairs Officer (D-1): responsible for the implementation and coordination of activities related to the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including liaison with governing bodies of other relevant environmental conventions, instruments and organizations and for the preparation of the summary and analytical reports called for by the multi-year programme of work; coordinating and following up on the establishment and management of the Global Forest Fund; managing the preparation of substantive documentation for and the reporting of the meetings related to the international instrument on all types of forests; and planning and managing expert group meetings, panels and seminars;

(b) Forest Affairs Officer (P-4): responsible for managing and coordinating subregional and regional inputs as an integral and essential component of the regular sessions of the Forum; preparation of subregional/regional, national or sectoral analysis that provides a basis for advising national Governments and regional organizations on forest policy development issues; monitoring forest policy developments in the regions and identifying recurrent and emerging issues of concern to the Forum; drafting policy recommendations; and formulating proposals for development strategies, policies and measures for presentation to the intergovernmental bodies;

(c) Forest Affairs Officer (P-3): responsible for assessing and synthesizing national reports and propose recommendations to the Forum on implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests; developing and maintaining databases of country information and national reports submitted to the Forum; monitoring and assessing the implementation of cooperation programmes and projects based on the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests; drafting specified inputs for technical papers and analytical studies on selected global, regional, national or sectoral aspects of sustainable forest management; and assisting in the organization and servicing of expert group meetings, seminars and panels on forest policy issues;

(d) Forest Affairs Officer (P-3): responsible for provision of substantive support to the multi-stakeholder dialogue; development and coordination of the Forum's major group focal point system; planning and organizing consultation meetings between the secretariat of the Forum and the multi-stakeholder dialogue, undertaking policy-oriented research, analysing trends and developments affecting the multi-stakeholder dialogue, assisting in the development of organization-led initiatives that serve as substantive input to the sessions, and other partnerships and activities that contribute to the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument and the global objectives on forests; preparing analytical reports and papers for the sessions of the Forum; and coordinating with regional processes and organizations;

(e) General Service (Other level): responsible for providing research, administrative and clerical support to the activities related to the non-legally binding instrument and the global objectives on forests, including assistance in the maintenance of the databases of country information and national reports submitted to the Forum.

2. Non-post requirements ($895,300)

(a) Consultants ($80,000). A provision of $80,000, covering 16 consultancy work-months, is required to secure specialized expertise not available in the Secretariat to cover reports and studies on the following topics: (i) proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism, a portfolio approach and a forest financing framework; (ii) forests and climate change; (iii) reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification; and (d) forests and biodiversity conservation;

(b) Expert group meetings ($613,800)

(i) Provision of $332,800 is required to convene in 2008, prior to the eighth session of the Forum, an open-ended ad hoc expert group meeting to prepare proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism, a portfolio approach and a forest financing framework. It is estimated that the meeting would be convened in New York for five days with participation of 75 governmental experts, in particular experts from developing and least developed countries;

(ii) Provision of $281,000 is required for five expert group meetings on: funding mechanisms; forests and climate change; forests and biodiversity conservation; reversing the loss of forest cover; and regional inputs. It is estimated that each meeting would be convened in New York for two days each with participation of 15 experts per meeting;

(c) Travel of staff ($60,000): provision of $60,000 is required for six missions per year to support engagement of the various regional and subregional processes in the effort to engage multi-stakeholders

and relevant forest-related international, regional, subregional bodies, mechanisms and processes in exploring joint activities towards the achievement of sustainable forest management, the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(d) General operating expenses ($19,000): provision of $19,000 is required to cover costs of communications ($10,000) and maintenance of office automation equipment, including local area network (LAN) support services ($9,000);

(e) Supplies and materials ($2,500): provision of $2,500 is required for supplies and materials, including paper, stationery, electronic data and word processing supplies;

(f) Furniture and equipment ($10,000): provision of $10,000 is required for acquisition of office automation equipment, including personal computers and printers for the proposed five new posts.

C. Section 28 D, Office of Central Support Services

13. The additional amount of $231,500 is needed under section 28 D, Office of Central Support Services of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, as follows:

(a) Rental and maintenance of premises ($219,000): an additional amount of $219,000 is required to provide for the recurrent costs of rental of office space for five new posts ($110,000) and for the one-time costs for related minor alteration/improvements to rented premises ($109,000). As the Headquarters facilities, including leased facilities, are at maximum capacity, it is no longer possible to accommodate the additional personnel requirements emanating from the new mandates without leasing additional property/office space;

(b) Common support costs ($12,500): an additional amount of $12,500 is required to provide for contractual services of sound technicians to service the meetings of the open-ended ad hoc expert group.

D. Section 35, Staff assessment

14. The amount of $126,500 is needed to provide for staff assessment for the five new posts under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

15. The total additional requirements for the implementation of the above activities are estimated at $2,285,100. After deduction of the amounts to be reprogrammed or absorbed, as explained in paragraphs 16 to 24 below, the additional requirements are estimated at $1,450,700 as follows:

	Total additional requirements	*To be reprogrammed*	*Net additional requirements*
Section 2			
Conference-servicing requirements	331 900	331 900	—
Section 9			
Posts	809 900	—	809 900
Consultants	80 000	80 000	
Expert group meetings	613 800	350 000	263 800
Travel of staff	60 000	60 000	—
General operating expenses	19 000	—	19 000
Supplies and materials	2 500	—	2 500
Furniture and equipment	10 000	—	10 000
Subtotal, section 9	**1 595 200**	**490 000**	**1 105 200**
Section 28 D	231 500	12 500	219 000
Section 35	126 500	—	126 500
Grand total	**2 285 100**	**834 400**	**1 450 700**

VII. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2008-2009

16. With regard to conference-servicing costs for the meetings of the open-ended ad hoc expert group on the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework, it is estimated that conference services would be provided for those meetings on an "as available" basis, which means that provision has been made under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009[6] for the conference-servicing of meetings scheduled to take place within specific time periods. If the meetings authorized subsequently could be accommodated within these periods, the related conference-servicing requirements would be also met under the existing provision. Consequently, the additional amount of $331,900 required for conference servicing of the meetings of the open-ended ad hoc working group would be met within resources under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Similarly, the additional amount of $12,500 to provide for contractual services of sound technicians would be accommodated under section 28 D, Office of Central Support Services, of the proposed programme budget.

17. In its resolution 2000/35, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to establish a compact secretariat, strengthened through staff from secretariats of international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, to service the Forum and to support the collaborative partnership on forests. Consequently, the General Assembly, in part IV of its resolution 56/255, approved the provision of four Professional level and two General Service (Other

[6] A/62/6 (Sect. 2).

level) posts, which have been maintained since then under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget.

18. During the first seven years, of the Forum's existence, regular budget-funded staff of the secretariat of the Forum were supplemented by three temporary posts at the Professional level funded from the Trust Fund in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The responsibilities of the extrabudgetary posts were focused on coordination and substantive support to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the management of intersessional work, including country and organization-led initiatives, and the provision of support and policy advice to Governments and organizations, upon request. It is expected that funding arrangements for these posts would continue in the biennium 2008-2009. Since its establishment, the secretariat has also been supported by senior staff members seconded from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme. However, the work demands on these organizations have exerted pressure on their staffing complements and, as of 1 August 2007, no staff from these other organizations will be available for secondment to the Forum secretariat. No further commitments have been received to date. Therefore, the arrangement envisioned by the Council at the establishment of the Forum would not appear to be sustainable over a long period.

19. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for staff resources required for the additional outputs under the Forum's multi-year programme of work, or for the activities related to the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. The additional staff requirements in this regard cannot be absorbed within the current level of staffing of the Forum's secretariat nor met within the resources available under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

20. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 to cover the costs of the open-ended ad hoc group on the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework, which amount to $332,800. However, section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 includes a provision of $137,900 for travel of the Forum's members to annual sessions. Since the Forum would meet biennially, starting with its eighth session in 2009, the amount of $69,000 would be reprogrammed to offset a portion of the costs for the meetings of the open-ended ad hoc working group. Therefore, only a one-time provision of $263,800 would be required under the regular budget.

21. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 to cover the five ad hoc expert group meetings totalling $281,000. However, three programmed meetings, reclustering and subject indexing of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action ($41,000), the annexes of a non-legally binding instrument for the thematic elements of sustainable forest management ($41,000), and one of two multi-stakeholder dialogues on sustainable forest management ($35,600), will not be undertaken. The related total amount of $117,600 would be reprogrammed to cover the cost of two meetings on climate change and reversing the loss of forest cover. The costs of the expert meetings on biodiversity conservation, regional inputs and the funding mechanism would be met from extrabudgetary resources.

22. The requirements of $80,000 under consultants would be covered in part from provisions in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for specialized expertise to assist in the preparation of studies and reports that will not be undertaken, namely the reclustering and subject indexing of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action ($20,000) and the annexes of a non-legally binding instrument for the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management ($16,000). These resources would be reprogrammed to cover the cost for consultancies for climate change and reversing loss of forest cover. The consultancy requirements for the biodiversity conservation and funding mechanism would be financed from extrabudgetary resources.

23. The requirements of $60,000 under staff travel to support the engagement of various regional and subregional processes to explore joint activities towards the achievement of sustainable forest management, the global objectives of forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument would be financed from extrabudgetary resources.

24. Consequently, should the Economic and Social Council adopt the draft resolution, an additional appropriation of $1,450,700 would be required over and above the resources available under of section 9, Economic and social affairs, section 28 D, Office of Central Support Services, and section 35, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

VIII. Contingency fund

25. It will be recalled that, under the procedures adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures were proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

IX. Conclusion

26. **The adoption by the Economic and Social Council of the draft resolution contained in the report of the seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests would give rise to additional requirements of $1,450,700, including $1,105,200 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, $219,000 under section 28 D, Office of Central Support Services, and $126,500 under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.**

27. **Consequently, an additional provision of $1,450,700 would be required over and above the resources of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. That provision would represent a charge against the**

contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriations for the biennium 2008-2009 to be approved by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

28. **The General Assembly is also requested to approve the proposed modifications to the programme narrative and outputs to be incorporated into the programme of work of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.**

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Agenda item 7 (h)
Coordination, programme and other questions: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Australia,* Barbados, Benin, Indonesia, Italy,* Kenya,* Mexico, Myanmar,* Norway,* Republic of Korea,* Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2005/47 of 27 July 2005,

Welcoming the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS),[1] and appreciating the concerted efforts of the UNAIDS secretariat and its co-sponsoring agencies in fighting HIV/AIDS,

Recalling the goals and targets set forth in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[2] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in 2001, the 2005 World Summit Outcome[3] and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[4] adopted by the high-level meeting of the General Assembly in 2006, as well as the HIV/AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000,[5]

Recognizing that HIV/AIDS constitutes a global emergency and poses one of the most formidable challenges to the development, progress and stability of our respective societies and the world at large and that it requires an exceptional and comprehensive global response,

Expressing serious concern about the continued global spread of HIV/AIDS, which exacerbates poverty and poses a major public health challenge and a threat to economic and social development and to food security in heavily affected regions,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] E/2007/56.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-26/2.

[3] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[4] General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

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Acknowledging the need to close the gap between available resources, both technical and financial, and the resources necessary to combat HIV/AIDS,

Remaining deeply concerned by the overall expansion and feminization of the pandemic and by the fact that women now represent 50 per cent of people living with HIV worldwide and nearly 60 per cent of people living with HIV in Africa, and in this regard recognizing that gender inequalities and all forms of violence against women and girls increase their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS,

Reaffirming the importance of global coordination efforts to scale up sustainable, intensified and comprehensive HIV/AIDS responses in a comprehensive and inclusive partnership, as listed in the Political Declaration, with people living with HIV, vulnerable groups, most affected communities, civil society and the private sector, within the framework of the "Three Ones" principle,

1. *Urges* UNAIDS and the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to intensify their support to Governments, with a view to achieving the goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[5] and the goals and targets contained in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[2] the 2005 World Summit Outcome[3] and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;[4]

2. *Encourages* Governments to provide full support to the reporting process of the 2001 Declaration of Commitment and the 2006 Political Declaration, in particular in the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General to the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the implementation of commitments made in the above-mentioned instruments, and to participate in its high-level plenary meetings;

3. *Commends* UNAIDS for the steps it has taken to support countries in moving towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support and for the adoption of its 2007-2010 strategic framework, endorsed by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board at its nineteenth meeting, as the principal guide to global, regional and country-level planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of progress of UNAIDS support to countries' efforts to move towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010;

4. *Reaffirms* the key role of UNAIDS in supporting national processes that include civil society in a meaningful way, especially key populations and in validating ambitious and comprehensive targets and incorporating them into costed national plans by the end of 2007, as decided by the Programme Coordinating Board at its twentieth meeting, and encourages all countries that have not yet done so to set national targets towards universal access;

5. *Recalls* the commitments made in the 2006 Political Declaration to reduce the global HIV/AIDS resource gaps through greater domestic and international funding in order to enable countries to have access to predictable and sustainable financial resources, and urges all Governments, bilateral and multilateral donors and private donors to fully fund the UNAIDS unified budget and workplan for 2008-2009, in accordance with the principle of burden-sharing;

6. *Welcomes* the decision of the Programme Coordinating Board at its twentieth meeting, building on extensive consultations, to review and strengthen its

own procedures and to improve coordination of the global HIV/AIDS response by UNAIDS;

7. *Encourages* the fulfilment of the commitment to strengthen the United Nations response to AIDS at the country level, the UNAIDS technical support division of labour and the concept of a joint United Nations team and programme on AIDS, with the aim of harmonizing technical support, strengthening programmatic coherence and improving collective accountability of the United Nations system at the country level, and also encourages UNAIDS to fully participate in the process of the reform of the United Nations on operational activities within the framework of its role as the coordinator for responses to HIV/AIDS;

8. *Welcomes* the improved collaboration between UNAIDS and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the decision taken by the Programme Coordinating Board at its twentieth meeting to review the existing memorandum of understanding between UNAIDS and the Global Fund;

9. *Encourages* intensified advocacy and concrete implementation by UNAIDS in order to ensure that the underlying obstacles to the goal of universal access are addressed at all levels and a sense of awareness is developed that HIV/AIDS should be viewed from its multisectoral, including socio-economic, dimensions;

10. *Acknowledges* the need to address the underlying obstacles to the goal of universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, including the gap in technical and financial resources available, as well as inadequate health infrastructure, which is necessary to ensure an effective and successful response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic;

11. *Urges* Governments, donors and UNAIDS to significantly expand efforts to address inequality and inequity between men and women, gender-based violence, including sexual and physical abuse of women, girls and boys, harmful gender-based practices and social and cultural norms, stigma, discrimination, deficiencies in sexual and reproductive health and lack of respect for human rights as major factors that heighten vulnerability to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, including through increased and better coordinated funding to national programmes and civil society partners;

12. *Requests* UNAIDS to further develop and finalize its draft guidelines on gender in consultation with Governments, donors, the United Nations system, global HIV initiatives, civil society and all relevant stakeholders, focusing on concrete actions to achieve gender equality and equity in national HIV/AIDS responses;

13. *Emphasizes* that the prevention of HIV infection must be the mainstay of national, regional and international responses to the pandemic and the importance of prevention for vulnerable groups, such as injecting drug users, in the response to HIV/AIDS, commends UNAIDS for its role in "uniting for HIV prevention" and supports the drive for more operational and specific targets for prevention at the national level in the move towards universal access, as iterated by the Executive Director of UNAIDS at the nineteenth meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board;

14. *Encourages* the efforts towards harmonization, alignment, national leadership and ownership and "making the money work"[6] between and among development partners, as led by the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors, and supports the continued building on the "Three Ones" principle as the framework for the response to HIV/AIDS at the country level;

15. *Urges* Governments, donors and other stakeholders, including UNAIDS, to promote coherence in support to and alignment with national HIV/AIDS response strategies in a transparent, accountable and effective manner within the framework of the "Three Ones" principle;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the decision of the Programme Coordinating Board to carry out an external evaluation of UNAIDS, and calls for a critical, constructive, inclusive and transparent evaluation;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2009, a report prepared by the Executive Director of UNAIDS, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, which should include information on progress made in implementing the coordinated response of the United Nations system to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the outcome of the aforementioned external evaluation of UNAIDS and the independent assessment to review and assess the sustainability of HIV/AIDS financing.

[6] "Making the money work" means working actively to implement the "Three Ones" principle in all countries.

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Agenda item 7 (c)
Coordination, programme and other questions: international cooperation in the field of informatics

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Léo Mérorès (Haiti), on the basis of informal consultations

The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics[1] and the initiatives of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics,

Recognizing the interest of Member States in taking full advantage of information and communication technologies for the acceleration of economic and social development,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and access by all States, with due regard to all official languages,[2]

Welcoming the intensification of efforts by the Information Technology Services Division of the Department of Management of the Secretariat to provide interconnectivity and unhindered Internet access to all Permanent and Observer Missions at the United Nations,

1. *Reiterates* once again the high priority that it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members and

[1] E/2007/59.

[2] Resolutions 1991/70 of 26 July 1991, 1992/60 of 31 July 1992, 1993/56 of 29 July 1993, 1994/46 of 29 July 1994, 1995/61 of 28 July 1995, 1996/35 of 25 July 1996, 1997/1 of 18 July 1997, 1998/29 of 29 July 1998, 1999/58 of 30 July 1999, 2000/28 of 28 July 2000, 2001/24 of 26 July 2001, 2002/35 of 26 July 2002, 2003/48 of 24 July 2003, 2004/51 of 23 July 2004, 2005/12 of 22 July 2005 and 2006/35 of 27 July 2006.

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Observers of the United Nations, as well as non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations, to the computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations, provided that the unhindered access of non-governmental organizations to such databases, systems and services will not prejudice the access of Member States nor impose an additional financial burden for their use;

2. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources, the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on this item, to facilitate the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology and to continue the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives, and in this regard requests the Working Group to continue its efforts to act as a bridge between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Information Technology Services Division for the continuing cooperation it is extending to the Working Group in the endeavour to further improve the information technology services available to all Permanent and Observer Missions at the United Nations and, in particular, for implementing the CandiWeb elections and candidatures website, a cooperative effort of the Secretariat and the diplomatic community coordinated by the Working Group;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Working Group and to give priority to implementing its recommendations;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2008 on action taken in follow-up to the present resolution, including the findings of the Working Group and an assessment of its work and mandate.

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Agenda item 13 (d)
Economic and environmental questions: human settlements

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Léo Mérorès (Haiti), on the basis of informal consultations

Human settlements

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its relevant resolutions on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[1]

(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;[2]

(b) Decides to transmit the report to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-second session;

(c) Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda for consideration by the Council at its substantive session of 2008.

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] E/2007/58.

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Agenda item 11
Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Cuba, Pakistan,* Sri Lanka and Sudan: draft resolution**

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 61/184 of 20 December 2006,

Recalling also its resolution 2006/43 of 27 July 2006,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 252 (1968) of 21 May 1968, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, ES-10/14 of 8 December 2003, ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the League of Arab States.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

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Stressing the importance of the revival of the Middle East peace process on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003) and 1544 (2004) and the principle of land for peace as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts to achieve sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Gravely concerned about the deterioration of the economic and living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan and the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of their natural resources,

Gravely concerned also by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel's construction of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the right to work, to health, to education and to an adequate standard of living,

Recalling in this regard the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[3] and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the Occupied Syrian Golan,

Gravely concerned at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of agricultural land and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in particular as a result of its construction of the wall, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,[4] recalling also General Assembly resolution ES-10/15, and stressing the need to comply with the obligations mentioned therein,

Extremely concerned by the dire humanitarian crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, further exacerbated by the repeated Israeli military operations, the severe restrictions on the Palestinian people and Israel's withholding of Palestinian tax revenues, part of which has recently been transferred,

Expressing grave concern about the increasing number of deaths and injuries among civilians, including children and women,

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[2] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[4] A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.

Gravely concerned by various reports of the United Nations and the specialized agencies regarding the inordinate rates of unemployment, widespread poverty and severe humanitarian hardships, including food insecurity and a rise in health-related problems, among the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Commending the important work being done by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the donor community in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, as well as the assistance being provided in the humanitarian field,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the dire humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Authority, with international support, to rebuild, reform and strengthen its damaged institutions, and emphasizing the need to preserve the Palestinian institutions and infrastructure,

Affirming that the Israeli occupation is a major obstacle to the economic and social development of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Occupied Syrian Golan,

Calling on both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map[5] in cooperation with the Quartet,

1. *Calls for* the lifting of the severe restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people, including those arising from the repeated Israeli military operations, and for other urgent measures to be taken to alleviate the desperate humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

2. *Demands* that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed in Paris on 29 April 1994,[6] takes note, as a first step, of the partial transfer by Israel of withheld Palestinian tax and customs revenues, and reiterates its call for the immediate, complete and regular release of the remaining and future funds;

3. *Stresses* the need to preserve the national unity and the territorial integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods in the Territory, including the removal of restrictions on going into and from East Jerusalem, and the freedom of movement to and from the outside world;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to restore and replace civilian properties, vital infrastructure, agricultural lands and governmental institutions that have been damaged or destroyed as a result of its military operations in the occupied Palestinian territory;

5. *Reiterates* the call for the full implementation of the Access and Movement Agreement of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent reopening of Rafah and Karni crossings, which is crucial to ensuring the passage of foodstuffs

[5] S/2003/529, annex.

[6] See A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex, entitled "Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area", annex IV.

and essential supplies, as well as the access of the United Nations agencies to and within the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

6. *Calls upon* all parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and to refrain from violence against the civilian population in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949;[1]

7. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of these resources;

8. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely, the water and land resources, and pose an environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations;

9. *Reaffirms* that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and an obstacle to economic and social development, and calls for the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

10. *Stresses* that the wall being constructed at an accelerated pace by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is isolating East Jerusalem and dividing up the West Bank and is seriously debilitating to the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and calls in this regard for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004[4] and in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

12. *Expresses its hope* that the recently called for Middle East peace conference will pave the way for the establishment of the independent Palestinian State;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

14. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan" in the agenda of its substantive session of 2008.

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Economic and Social Council

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Substantive session of 2007
Geneva, 2-27 July 2007
Agenda item 7 (g)
Coordination, programme and other questions: ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Léo Mérorès (Haiti), on the basis of informal consultations

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2002/1 of 15 July 2002, 2003/1 of 31 January 2003, 2003/53 of 24 July 2003, 2004/1 of 3 May 2004, 2004/59 and 2004/61 of 23 July 2004, 2005/2 of 1 March 2005, 2005/32 of 26 July 2005 and 2006/11 of 26 July 2006 and its decision 2002/304 of 25 October 2002,

Noting the appointment of a new Government in April 2007, and encouraging the Government of Guinea-Bissau to intensify its efforts to further deepen economic reforms and to strengthen governance,

Expressing concern at the marked increase in the use of the territory of Guinea-Bissau for drug trafficking and its possible impact on the State, and in this regard encouraging the efforts of the Government of Guinea-Bissau, with the assistance of the international community, to combat this newly emerging challenge,

Recognizing the need for strong regional and international support for the continuing efforts of the Government of Guinea-Bissau to improve political and institutional stability,

Recognizing the need for strong regional and international support for the continuing efforts of the Government of Guinea-Bissau to improve political and institutional stability,

Welcoming the establishment and role of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau in mobilizing support for the country,

Also welcoming the positive and constructive role of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau in supporting the country in its pursuit of its pressing short- and long-term development objectives,

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1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the holding of the donor round-table conference in Geneva on 7 and 8 November 2006, and urges the donor community to disburse funds in line with the pledges made, including for budgetary support, with a view to contributing to the clearing of the 2007 fiscal deficit;

3. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the country's poverty reduction strategy and its security sector reform plan, including their funding;

4. *Reaffirms* the need to create an enabling environment in Guinea-Bissau to promote sustainable development in the country, including through a commitment to transparent and sound public expenditure management;

5. *Invites* Guinea-Bissau's partners to provide both technical and financial support for the next legislative elections, which are due by March 2008;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the United Nations Development Group, relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies to continue to assist the Ad Hoc Advisory Group in accomplishing its mandate, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to continue to cooperate towards that end;

7. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the work of the Group, and requests him to continue to adequately support its activities;

8. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau through the substantive session of 2008, unless the Council decides on an earlier review of the mandate, and requests the Group to report, as appropriate, to the Council.

[1] E/2007/57.

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Economic and Social Council

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Geneva, 2-27 July 2007
Agenda items 7 (e) and 14 (a)

Coordination, programme and other questions: mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Social and human rights questions: advancement of women

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Léo Mérorès (Haiti), on the basis of informal consultations

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[1] and recalling its resolutions 2001/41 of 7 July 2001, 2002/23 of 24 July 2002, 2003/49 of 24 July 2003, 2004/4 of 7 July 2004, 2005/31 of 26 July 2005 and 2006/36 of 27 July 2006,

Reaffirming also the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres and to further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender,

Acknowledging that enhancing women's opportunities, potential and activities requires a dual focus, namely, programmes aimed at meeting the basic and specific needs of women of capacity-building, organizational development and empowerment, together with gender mainstreaming in all programme formulation and implementation activities,

Recognizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women makes an essential contribution to the work of the United Nations,

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

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Noting the ongoing discussions in the General Assembly on the report of the Secretary-General on system-wide coherence,[2]

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for achieving gender equality and constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[4]

Recognizing that training is critical for increasing awareness, knowledge, commitment and the capacity of staff to mainstream a gender perspective into United Nations policies and programmes and that the provision of effective gender training requires adequate financial and human resources,

Underlining the catalytic role played by the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the important role played by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, and in some cases has even decreased, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system,[5]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system;[6]

2. *Recognizes* that the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality remains an important forum for the exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas on gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and takes note of the ongoing discussions on the implementation of the policy and strategy for gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

3. *Encourages* all United Nations entities to continue investing in capacity development, including through mandatory training for all staff and personnel and training for senior managers, as a critical means of increasing the awareness, knowledge, commitment and competencies of staff with regard to mainstreaming a gender perspective in all United Nations policies and programmes;

4. *Recognizes* that a large gap remains between policy and practice and that building United Nations staff capacities alone is not sufficient for the Organization to meet its commitments and obligations with respect to gender mainstreaming, and

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[2] A/61/836 (Report of the Secretary-General on the recommendations contained in the report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment).

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and S-23/3.

[5] A/61/318.

[6] E/2007/64.

requests the United Nations system, including United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, within their organizational mandates, to:

(a) Strengthen institutional accountability mechanisms, including through a more effective monitoring and evaluation framework for gender mainstreaming based on common United Nations evaluation standards;

(b) Strengthen accountability systems for both management and staff, through, inter alia, the inclusion of objectives and results related to gender mainstreaming in personnel workplans and appraisals;

(c) Continue efforts to achieve gender balance in appointments within the United Nations system at the Headquarters and country levels in positions that affect operational activities, including resident coordinator appointments and other high-level posts, with due regard to representation of women from developing countries and keeping in mind the principle of equitable geographic representation, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

(d) Ensure that programmes, plans and budgets visibly mainstream gender perspectives and allocate adequate financial and human resources for gender mainstreaming commensurate with the organizational gender equality goals, including for mandatory training on gender mainstreaming, especially gender analysis, for all staff and for the implementation of strategies, policies and action plans;

(e) Share and disseminate good practices, tools and methodologies electronically and through regular meetings on gender mainstreaming, including through the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and its task forces, as well as the United Nations country teams;

(f) Address gaps by strengthening coordination and synergy between policy and practice in mainstreaming a gender perspective in their respective fields of work;

(g) Enhance collaboration and coordination in the work of gender specialists and gender focal points working, inter alia, in the areas of peace and security, humanitarian affairs and economic and social development;

(h) Provide specific ongoing capacity-building, inter alia, through training for gender specialists and gender focal points, including in the field;

(i) Promote a United Nations system-wide common understanding of a results-based management framework with benchmarks and indicators for measuring progress in application of the gender mainstreaming strategy to achieve gender equality;

(j) Include clear gender equality results and gender-sensitive indicators in their strategic frameworks;

(k) Assess the gaps on gender mainstreaming and unify methodologies for evaluation after the implementation of gender mainstreaming policies and programmes within the United Nations system;

(l) Strengthen collaboration between United Nations country teams on gender equality programmes, including through joint activities and the strengthening of the capacity of gender theme groups to support such activities;

(m) Mainstream a gender perspective, pursue gender equality in their country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes and articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this field in accordance with national development strategies;

(n) Collaborate with the resident coordinator system to provide gender specialist resources in support of gender mainstreaming in country-level activities in all sectors in which they operate, working closely with relevant national counterparts;

(o) Promote inter-agency cooperation through the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, through its High-level Committee on Programmes and its High-level Committee on Management, in order to ensure consistency and synergy in the implementation of the United Nations system-wide policy and strategy on gender mainstreaming;

(p) Promote the collection, analysis and use of data disaggregated by sex during programme development and evaluation of gender mainstreaming to assess progress towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women;

5. *Requests* all relevant United Nations entities to maintain their efforts to raise awareness of gender issues within their organizations and across the United Nations system;

6. *Stresses* the important role that senior management plays in creating an environment that actively supports gender mainstreaming, and calls on it to do so;

7. *Requests* the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to continue to provide practical support to its members in gender mainstreaming, explore possibilities for developing an accessible and consolidated database of trained facilitators at the country and regional levels, in consultation with Member States, and report regularly to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination through its High-level Committee on Programmes and its High-level Committee on Management in order to facilitate the incorporation of gender mainstreaming perspectives into their work;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2008 a detailed report on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Council resolution 2006/36 and on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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Agenda item 14 (a)
Social and human rights questions: advancement of women

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Léo Mérorès (Haiti), on the basis of informal consultations

Future work to strengthen the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions, including resolutions 1999/54 of 29 July 1999, 2000/24 of 28 July 2000, 2001/40 of 26 July 2001 and 2003/57 of 24 July 2003, on the strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its fourth session[1] and of the recommendations and decisions contained therein,

Also taking note of the report of the Director of the Institute, entitled "Comprehensive report and future projections for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women", contained in the report of the Executive Board,[2]

1. *Reaffirms* the specific mandate of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to conduct research and training for gender equality and the empowerment of women as a central focal point for research and training on gender issues within the United Nations system;

2. *Requests* the Institute to strengthen its training and research activities, as appropriate, in accordance with its statute and with its strategic framework 2008-2011, adopted by the Executive Board in 2007, and in line with all relevant United Nations resolutions related, inter alia, to the advancement of women and gender equality in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as follows:

[1] E/2007/79.
[2] Ibid., annex I.

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(a) To intensify its training activities on the basis of lessons learned and replicate best practices and to continue to implement innovative methods of work, in order to have a concrete impact on policies and programmes at all levels and respond to both existing and future challenges, particularly in developing countries, including least developed countries in all regions;

(b) To further coordinate its activities and to develop its programme of work in collaboration with all relevant United Nations bodies and to strengthen its cooperation with Governments and national mechanisms of gender equality, as well as civil society, including the non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia;

(c) To increase its cooperation with the Commission on the Status of Women and with other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, particularly in bringing to their attention gender concerns in emerging issues;

3. *Stresses* the critical importance of voluntary financial contributions by Member States to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to enable it to carry out its mandate;

4. *Requests* the Institute to continue its efforts, including by developing a medium- and long-term resource mobilization strategy, so that current and potential donors devote a greater interest to the core budget and consider commitments to multi-year funding;

5. *Invites* States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

6. *Decides* to continue considering these issues, and requests the Secretary-General to present a report on the implementation of the present resolution during its substantive session in 2008.

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Geneva, 2-27 July 2007
Agenda item 13 (h)
Economic and environmental questions: international cooperation in tax matters

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Léo Mérorès (Haiti), on the basis of informal consultations

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2004/69 of 11 November 2004, in which the Council decided that the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters should be renamed the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters,

Recognizing the call made in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[1] for the strengthening of international tax cooperation through enhanced dialogue among national tax authorities and greater coordination of the work of the concerned multilateral bodies and relevant regional organizations, giving special attention to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,[2]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of and follow-up to commitments and agreements made at the International Conference on Financing for Development[3] and of the recommendations contained therein,

Recognizing the need for an inclusive, participatory and broad-based dialogue on international cooperation in tax matters,

Noting the activities developing within the concerned multilateral bodies and relevant regional organizations,

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[1] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., para. 64.

[3] A/58/216.

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1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its second session[4] and the significant progress of the Committee's work;

2. *Notes* that the Committee has broken new ground in working on new and emerging issues, such as services, improved dispute resolution, tax issues related to Islamic financial instruments and the taxation of development projects, as well as adopting a new article and Commentary on the developing area of mutual assistance in the enforcement of tax debts;

3. *Recognizes* that the Committee agreed to create, as necessary, ad hoc subcommittees and working groups composed of experts and observers who would work throughout the year according to the Committee's rules of procedure to prepare and determine the supporting documentation for the agenda items, including requests for papers by independent experts, for consideration at its regular session;[5]

4. *Notes* that four subcommittees on substantive matters, namely, treaty abuses, mutual assistance in collecting tax debts (which finalized its work in November 2006), definition of permanent establishment and exchange of information, and two working groups, on arbitration in taxation matters and on the Manual for the Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries, were created at the first session of the Committee;

5. *Also notes* that the existing working group on arbitration in taxation matters has been reconstituted as a subcommittee on dispute resolution and that a new working group on treatment of Islamic financial instruments has been created;

6. *Recognizes* that in order to deal with issues relating to the agenda on a continuous basis, subcommittees should use electronic communications where possible, but that the efficient operation of these subcommittees may in future require some face-to-face meetings;

7. *Also recognizes* that the participation in subcommittee meetings by members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition is critical to ensuring an inclusive and effective completion of the drafting activities of the subcommittees;

8. *Notes with gratitude* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the trust fund to supplement regular budget resources, and urges all Member States and relevant organizations to contribute generously to the fund;

9. *Invites* the Committee to continue to organize training workshops for developing countries and countries with economies in transition as part of the work required to carry out its mandate, which includes making recommendations on capacity-building and providing technical assistance;

10. *Recommends* that the General Assembly, at its sixty-second session, consider options to ensure adequate financing of the work of the Committee, including those contained in the report of the Committee at its second session;

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[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 45* (E/2006/45).

[5] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 25* (E/2005/45), para. 15.

11. *Decides* that the third session of the Committee shall be convened in Geneva from 29 October to 2 November 2007;

12. *Approves* the provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee as contained in paragraph 63 of the report on its second session.